

The Trent Learning Experience

Trent University is an outstanding undergraduate university known for its commitment to a liberal arts and sciences education. Celebrated for excellence in both teaching and research, Trent consistently ranks among the top institutions nationwide for quality of education, teaching, and research. In particular, the University is renowned for its focus on the individual student through smaller class sizes, ratio of students to faculty members with Ph.D.s and access to scholarships and bursaries.

Faculty members are accomplished teachers and researchers who provide an array of opportunities for their students. It is one of Trent's goals to provide educational programs that encourage students to think critically, creatively, constructively, and to communicate their ideas effectively, as well as to instill a curiosity that engenders lifelong learning. The Trent experience is not limited to attending lectures and labs; it is a composite of in-class and after-class learning. The University experience is about sharing new information, insight and understanding, and furthering yourself as you enrich the world around you.

Spanning the picturesque Otonabee River in the beautiful Kawartha Lakes district of Peterborough, Ontario, Trent's main campus features award-winning architecture designed to complement its natural setting.

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Earth. Wind. Water. People. Place. Space.

At Trent University you can graduate with a B.A. or B.Sc. in Geography, depending on the courses you take. Either choice offers a wide range of options and is guaranteed to open up a whole new understanding of this World and the way it is structured. Students have the option of combining their Honours degree in Geography with a diploma in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) offered through Fleming College in Lindsay.

The study of Physical Geography delves into provocative issues surrounding climate change, ozone depletion, soil conservation, deforestation, and freshwater resources.

Earth's dynamic systems are fascinating and complex. They incorporate its climate, weather, water, landforms, rocks, soils and ecosystems.

As geographical knowledge becomes increasingly important in this global era, Human Geography students will find themselves well prepared for an array of endeavours and employment opportunities. A broad perspective on how people share and interact with the world around them is invaluable to a variety of pursuits. Students will be prepared to examine human interactions with social, built and natural environments.



LEARNING TO MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.™



What is geography?

The study of geography is diverse and broad – it attracts both arts and science students. Throw out any preconceived notion that this discipline involves the memorization of countries and capital cities. Geography encompasses the Earth as our home planet in all its human and physical complexity.

Just imagine ...

Imagine studying the effects of the globalization of world economics, urban systems and planning, regional economic development, the relation between gender and spatial organization, or recreation and tourism geography.

Consider what it would be like to learn about Earth's energy balance and how it drives the climate. Envision yourself becoming an expert on groundwater resources and watershed management, soil erosion

Studying how humans interact with each other and the environment helps us understand how we shape the world and how our world shapes us.

and conservation practices, snowmelt and runoff, or Geographical Information Systems. Explore a glacier, a cave, a sea stack, a star dune and many more of the fascinating landforms found on Earth's surface. Geographers distinguish themselves in creating a holistic view of the planet in which human-Earth relationships are identified and explained.

"There are many opportunities to get involved, such as TUGS (Trent University Geographical Society), 'Reach for the Peak' and the first-year field trip. These are a few of the ways that geography students get to know each other and build a strong geography-based community at Trent."

Undergraduate student
Karin Bell

State-of-the-art facilities

Learn about fluid motion in the boundary layer wind tunnel.



The labs in the Geography Department at Trent are fully equipped for the analysis of soil properties and water chemistry. State-of-the-art surveying equipment is backed up by labs for computer-aided mapping and spatial analysis. Visit the department's climate station to observe the collection of solar radiation, temperature, or wind and rainfall data in real time.



Get out in the field

Perhaps there's no better way to acquaint yourself with the Earth than to get up close and personal with it. Trent faculty in many disciplines believe this to be true, and the Geography Department schedules regular field trips in many courses. Given its beautiful and natural setting, the University campus is a classroom waiting to be explored, and is used



regularly for field work purposes. Stream gauge in the Ganaraska Forest, study the shoreline of Lake Ontario, or investigate the effects of urbanization on urban/greenspaces. Explore the Oak Ridges terminal moraine, or the contact between the Precambrian Shield and Paleozoic Lowlands – it's all within an hour's drive of the campus!

Be yourself

Geography professors, like all instructors at Trent, are committed to the success of each individual student. Excellent instructor-to-student ratios and a strong academic advisor system are foundations of that commitment. As well, Geography students are encouraged to pursue independent research projects. In the fourth, or honours, year of their academic program, many students opt to complete an honours thesis, giving them a chance to do creative and in-depth research on a project of their choice with guidance from a professor who specializes in the subject area.

Beyond the Classroom

Many opportunities exist at Trent for Geography students to do hands-on work in their area of interest. The Ministry of Natural Resources – which has labs on campus – offers summer jobs and research positions to a number of students each year. Geography professors often hire research assistants for lab and field work during the summer, and sometimes throughout the academic year. The department has a long term research program measuring the mass balance of glaciers in Canada's high arctic islands. Each May, one or two students are selected to participate in this program.

"The geography courses that I have taken have been terrific. The Geography Department at Trent is small, and this has made it possible to get to know a lot of the professors. The professors know me, as well. They are definitely the strength of the department. They're available to help when you have problems and are very approachable."

Undergraduate student
Carol Bolton



The skills you gain while studying Geography at Trent will be invaluable as you enter the workforce. The types of jobs you might access are impressive. Geography graduates go on to pursue careers as:

- aerial photo interpreters
- cultural and heritage preservation
- air quality analysts
- avalanche specialists
- environmental services
- climatologists
- community development workers
- consultants
- energy analysts
- engineers
- GIS specialists
- land surveyors
- meteorologists
- teachers
- transportation analysts
- urban planners



Geography... it encompasses the World and opens up the World. Expand your horizons!